

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were submitted for examination. In this Office Action, Claims 1-2, 7-9, 11-12, 14-15 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Bricheno et al US Patent No.: 5,574,811 (hereinafter as "Bricheno"), and claims 3-6, 10, 13 and 16-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have amended the claims and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejections to Claims 1-20 in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Regarding the rejections to Claim 1 under 35 USC 102 (b), Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

positioning the first optical part from a substrate by a small gap, the substrate being generally made and providing no complementary mating profiles for either one of the first and the second optical parts;

after the first optical part is aligned with the second optical part, sliding two wedges respectively towards the first optical part from two directions till respective contacts with the first optical part are established;

applying a small amount of bonding agent to the respective contacts to secure positions of the first optical part with respect to the substrate

(emphasis added)

In particular, Claim 1 recites that the substrate is generally made and providing no complementary mating profiles for either one of the first and the second optical parts.

In contrast, Bricheno shows in FIG1 and FIG. 2 that the substrate is specially made for the parts to be coupled, see *"the motherboard (12) and fibre platform (11) are crystallographically etched to provide complementary mating profiles with a clearance of less than 10 μ m when alignment is established"*. Clearly, Bricheno teaches away from the combined features recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicants submit the pending claims 1-7 shall be allowable over Bricheno.

Claims 8 and 15 have been amended accordingly and are equally believed to have overcome Bricheno in view of the supporting arguments provided above. The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider the pending claims 8-20.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe that Claims 1-20 shall be in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is believed that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early and favorable action is being respectfully solicited.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplementary Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (408)777-8873.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to " Mail Stop: No-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", on Feb 12, 2004. Faxed 703-872-9306

Signed:  (Joe Zheng)

Respectfully Submitted,



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